

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate October 8-14, 1978, as Fire Prevention Week.

Because fire deaths most often occur in homes, I call upon American families and other property owners to install smoke detectors, to practice exit drills, and to be especially vigilant in guarding against fires caused by cooking and fires caused by smoking materials, which cause the greatest number of fires and greatest proportion of losses in homes.

I support and encourage the cooperative efforts of private enterprise and government in developing low cost residential sprinkler systems and I urge commercial and government property owners to install sprinklers in both new and older buildings, especially those buildings in which large numbers of people gather.

I urge all agencies of Federal, state and local government involved in the planning and implementation of programs directed to finding solutions to such national concerns as energy conservation, environmental protection, and economic well-being to fully consider the effects of their programs on the fire safety of the environment in which Americans live and work.

I encourage the fire service, police, prosecutors, the insurance industry, and government to work together to remove incentives for arson, and to improve arson detection and prosecution so that we can begin to eliminate this costly, often life-threatening crime.

I urge officials in private industry and in government who are responsible for using or regulating hazardous materials to seek and implement measures to significantly reduce the possibility of life loss in the event of manufacturing, transportation, or storage accidents and to assist the fire services in preparing for such disasters should they occur.

Finally, I call upon the members of the Joint Council of National Fire Service Organizations, the National Fire Protection Association, all other organizations concerned with fire safety, and the National Fire Prevention and Control Administration to provide the leadership, planning, and innovation necessary for an effective national fire prevention and control effort.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4582

August 8, 1978

General Pulaski's Memorial Day, 1978

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

One hundred and ninety-nine years ago, the Polish patriot Casimir Pulaski gave his life fighting for freedom in the American Revolution.

General Pulaski, an exile from his native Poland, arrived in 1777 to join the Revolutionary Army. He fought courageously at Brandywine and in other battles, and he formed and commanded the famous cavalry unit, the Pulaski Legion, which fought nobly in the cause of American independence.

General Pulaski died on October 11, 1779 of wounds received in the Battle of Savannah two days earlier. Nearly two hundred years later we continue to pay tribute to him and to the millions of Americans of Polish descent who have played such an important part in founding our country, making it grow, and preserving its ideals.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate Wednesday, October 11, 1978, as General Pulaski's Memorial Day and I direct the appropriate Government officials to display the flag of the United States on all Government buildings on that day.

I also invite the people of the United States to honor the memory of General Pulaski by holding appropriate exercises and ceremonies in suitable places throughout our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of August, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred seventy-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER

Proclamation 4583

August 8, 1978

White Cane Safety Day, 1978

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For the more than six million Americans who suffer severe visual impairment, merely crossing the street may be a harrowing experience. This is especially true for the one-half million of our citizens who are legally blind and whose skill and resolve are tested daily in the traffic of our busy cities.

For such people, the white cane is an invaluable tool with which they can move about confidently and, most important, independently. Because the white cane is deceptively simple, many of us do not realize that special training and skill are required to use it effectively and safely. The cane is not a crutch but serves much as an extension of its user, providing assurance that the path ahead is clear and safe.

For the sighted, the white cane should serve as a reminder of the special needs of the visually handicapped person and of the importance of exercising simple courtesies which may otherwise be overlooked in haste. Observing the pedestrian's right-of-way in a crosswalk is a basic rule of traffic safety which has extra importance to the visually handicapped person who cannot see a vehicle's approach. For the sighted pedestrian, even a gesture as simple as offering to accompany a visually handicapped person across a busy intersection can make the difference between a safe crossing and a hazardous one.

To heighten public awareness of the importance of the white cane to the independence and safety of thousands of blind and visually handicapped Americans, the Congress, by a joint resolution approved October 6, 1964 (78 Stat. 1003; 36 U.S.C. 169d), has authorized the President to proclaim October 15 of each year as White Cane Safety Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 1978, as White Cane Safety Day.